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CORONA file

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9 September 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [] CIA/OS
COMIREX Security Consultant

SUBJECT : Draft CORONA "Historical" Article
[]

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1. As requested, I am forwarding COMIREX Staff comment on subject draft. In brief, we believe it would be inappropriate to publish the article at this time. The article, as it stands, clearly requires continued application of [] controls since contemporary operational details discussed at several points, notably following page 44 and page 52, are sensitive and should not be eligible at this time for downgrading or decontrol.

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2. There obviously are varying degrees of sensitivity involved, depending on details and age of data. In general, the material covering the pre-1965 period probably is old enough to be acceptable but it should not attempt to discuss current systems, techniques, or more recent developments.

3. While we consider the security restrictions on publication as overriding in any case, we also question on substantive grounds--in terms of both content and scope--the article's suitability for publication in Studies. While it is useful as project office history, the numerous technical details and limited "hardware" focus of the article contributes only marginally to professional enlightenment of the general intelligence readership. A reader must have a good appreciation of the substantive intelligence problems as well as the limitation of other sources in the early sixties, to place the early development activities in perspective. To deal in such length and detail (even allowing for inspired editing) with primarily the hardware

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NRO review(s) completed.

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aspect could foster misunderstanding, rather than appreciation, of the significantly broader context within which this activity had relevance. Such limited treatment, presented outside this broad context and lacking perspective on either the substantive intelligence problems and objectives guiding system development in the first place or on CORONA's contribution toward meeting those objectives is, at best, poor history.

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Executive Secretary

Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

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